

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Description of Amendments

Claims 1, 10, 24, and 29 are amended, Claims 8, 9, 15 and 16 are canceled and new dependant Claims 32-38 added. No new matter was added by this amendment

Applicants wish to thank Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 9 and 29. The subject matter of allowable Claim has been incorporated into Claim 1 as amended. Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Allowance of Claim 1 is earnestly solicited.

Rejections of Claims 1, 10 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Jacob* (US Patent No. 5,087,418) in view of *Malik* (US Patent No. 6,504,307). Claim 1 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Usai* (US Patent No. 5,591,268) in view of *Malik*. Claim 1 was amended to include features recited in Claim 9, which claim was indicated as allowable.

Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus having a combination of features, including a mandrel that extends from a first plate member into a first plasma member and through an opening formed in a second plate member. Claim 1 is not obvious over the combination of *Jacob* in view of *Malik*, nor the combination of *Usai* in view of *Malik*. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Usai* in view of *Malik*.

Claim 10 is directed to an apparatus to coat an implantable medical device, including the features of a first tubular member having an opening, a source that supplies a polymerizable monomer gas to the first tubular member, a second tubular member in which an implantable medical device can be placed, the second tubular member being electrically isolated from the first tubular member and operatively disposed within the opening such that a first portion thereof is located outside of the first tubular member and a second portion thereof is located within the first tubular member; and an energy source in communication with the first tubular member.

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Usai* in view of *Malik*.

Claim 24 is directed to an apparatus to plasma coat a stent, including a first plasma member; a second plasma member circumscribing the first plasma member; a stent mandrel having a first end and a second end connected to a grounding member, wherein the stent mandrel is at least partially circumscribed by the first plasma member and only partially circumscribed by the second plasma member such that the second end and grounding member are disposed outside of the second plasma member; and a plasma generating source in communication with the second plasma member, wherein the plasma generating source generates gaseous plasma to modify a surface of the stent by forming a polymer film on the surface of the stent.

The Dependant Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(3) as unpatentable over *Jacob* (US Patent No. 5,087,418) in view of *Malik* (US Patent No. 6,504,307). Claim 4 is rejected under U.S.C. 102(3) as being unpatentable over *Jacob* (US Patent No. 5,087,418) in view of *Malik* as applied to Claims 1-3, 5-7, 31 and further in view of *Pui* (US Patent No. 7, 247, 338). Claims 1, 8, 10, 12-14, 17-28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Usai* (US Patent No. 5,591,268) in view of *Malik*. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Usai* (US Patent No. 5,591,267) in view of *Mali* as applied to claim 10 and further in view of *Jacob*.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance. If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a

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petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 07-1850.

Respectfully submitted,

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